REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

Claims 1-16 were previously pending and under consideration.

Claims 17-20 are added herein.

Therefore, claims 1-20 are now pending and under consideration.

Claims 1-16 are rejected.

Claims 1-16 are amended herein.

No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

ENTRY OF AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR §1.116

Applicant requests entry of this Rule 116 Response because:

(a) it is believed that the amendment of the claims puts this application into condition for allowance as suggested by the Examiner;

(b) the amendments were not earlier presented because the Applicant believed in good faith that the cited prior art did not disclose the present invention as previously claimed;

(c) the amendments of the claims should not entail any further search by the Examiner since no new features are being added or no new issues are being raised; and

(d) the amendments do not significantly alter the scope of the claims and place the application at least into a better form for purposes of appeal. No new features or new issues are being raised.

The Manual of Patent Examining Procedures sets forth in Section 714.12 that "any amendment that would place the case either in condition for allowance <u>or in better form for appeal</u> may be entered." Moreover, Section 714.13 sets forth that "the Proposed Amendment should be given sufficient consideration to determine whether the claims are in condition for allowance and/or whether the issues on appeal are simplified." The Manual of Patent Examining Procedures further articulates that the reason for any non-entry should be explained expressly in

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the Advisory Action.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC § 103

In the Office Action, at pages 3-6, claims 1-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Hotta in view of Shirasaki. This rejection is traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Hotta is cited as teaching plural recognition methods. The rejection indicated that "non-coinciding characters" is being interpreted as equivalent to "misrecognized characters" (page 2, lines 18-20 of the Office Action).

The amended claims recite a feature of two character recognition algorithms being used to find non-coinciding characters. This feature is not disclosed or suggested in the prior art.

The rejection compared the feature of performing character recognition using respective recognition methods to Figure 4, boxes 9-11, and 15 of Hotta. However, Hota discusses methods (or sub-methods) that are part of a single character recognition process. In other words, the "character segmentation unit" (box 9), the "feature vector computing unit" (box 10), the "character category determining unit" (box 11), etc. of Hotta are all parts of one character recognition algorithm. They are not different character recognition algorithms.

To clarify that the character recognition methods of the present claims are not parts of one recognition method, the claims are amended to recite "recognition algorithms" (see page 15, line 15 of the specification) that each produce their own recognized characters from the same text image. The boxes in Figure 4 of Hotta are clearly not recognition algorithms that each produce their own recognized characters; there is only one recognition result that comes from their cooperation.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection's assertion that non-coinciding characters are the same as misrecognized characters. The Merriam Webster Online Dictionary indicates that to "coincide" is "to be in accord or agreement : CONCUR". A misrecognized character in the cited references does not agree or concur with the image text. However, the non-coincidence in the present claims is non-coincidence between two different recognized characters of a same portion/location of the text image. In other words, there is non-coincidence

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between the output of the two or more character recognition algorithms.

Other amendments herein are intended to broaden the claims. The phrase "a text image read by an image scanner" has been broadened to a "captured text image". The feature of a "program" has been broadened to a "unit".

DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The dependent claims are deemed patentable due at least to their dependence from allowable independent claims. These claims are also patentable due to their recitation of independently distinguishing features. For example, claim 3 recites outputting the recognition results by contrasting the text image and the recognition results. This feature is not taught or suggested by the prior art. Withdrawal of the rejection of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.
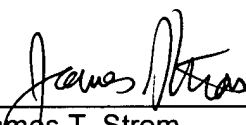
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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